

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph at page 2, prenumbered lines 14 to 21.

Please delete the paragraph at page 2, prenumbered lines 22 to 24.

Please delete the paragraph at page 2, beginning at prenumbered lines 25 to page 3, line 4.

Please delete the paragraph at page 3, lines 5 to 7.

Please delete the paragraph at page 3, lines 8 to 17.

Please delete the paragraph at page 3, lines 18 to 21.

Insert the following at page 3, after line 21 as follows:

It is an object of the present invention to solve the above problem in the conventional technology.

The dispersion-shifted fiber according to one aspect of the present invention has a zero dispersion wavelength that is longer than 1640 nanometer, a dispersion of -1.0 ps/nm/km to -10.0 ps/nm/km in a wavelength range between 1530 nanometer and 1625 nanometer, a dispersion slope of a positive value less than 0.07 ps/nm²/km in the wavelength range between 1530 nanometer and 1625 nanometer, a polarization mode dispersion of not more than 0.1 ps/(km)^{1/2} at a wavelength of 1550 nanometer, and an effective area of 40-70 μm² at the wavelength of 1550 nanometer.

The other objects, features and advantages of the present invention are specifically set forth in or will become apparent from the following detailed descriptions in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.